ELEMENTS OF MYSTICISM IN THE SELECT POEMS OF ARUN KOLATKAR AND DILIP CHITRE

A Ph. D. Synopsis Submitted for

The Registration of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.) in English

Under the Faculty of Humanities to

SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY

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July 2021

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INTRODUCTION

Today's world is a world of globalization. It is necessary to look towards social issues and religious issues. It is observed that there are some viewpoints which are concerned about sociology, psychology, physical anthropology and Mythology. It has a specific Quadrilateral. Therefore, a learner must know about the mythological aspects of the particular work while understanding the literature. It will be more beneficial for a new learner.

In Indian English literature, from the publication of the first English novel in India "Raj Mohan's wife" (1864) by Bakimchandra Chattopadhyay's and the first poet Henry Derozio's English work has been continuously in the form of transformation. In the same way Indian English Poetry is the oldest form of Indian English Literature. There were various great writers of Indian English literature. There have been a lot of famous Indian novelist and poets from 19th century to 21th century, among the great scholar's, novelist, poets and Indian writers writing in English. Such as Rabindranath Tagore, M. M Dutt, Toru Dutt, Nissim Ezekiel and Novelists like R K Narayan, Raja Rao, Mulk raj Anand, Arundhati Roy, Shashi Tharoor etc. Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre are among of them. They have a great position among these writers.

Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre's work constantly deal with the issues of Sociology, Mythology and Religious Consciousness. Arun Kolatkar was a writer, novelist, poet and one of the India's most popular poets. He was born in 1932. His poem 'Jejuri' is one of the first religious poem come from India. Arun Kolatkar won the Sahitya Academy Award and Commonwealth Poetry Prize. He was born in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India. He was educated at Rajaram High School in Kolhapur, where lessons were taught in Marathi. He joined J.J. School of Art in Bombay, also attended art schools in Kolhapur and Pune. He spent several years trying to make a living before turning to work as an art director and graphic designer for several advertising agencies in Bombay. He has explained various things through his work, like religion, Culture, Hindu mythology, sociology etc. His poems appeared in many prestigious poetry anthologies like 'Opinion Literary Quarterly', besides other noted journals and other anthologies.

Arun Kolatkar wrote Jejuri, a collection of poems. He wrote prolifically, in both Marathi and English, publishing in magazines and anthologies since 1955. He was the first poet who has

worked with the subject of God Khandoba and its mythological stories. He portrays the predicament of Hindu mythology, culture and issues like human God relationship, Mystery, myth and quest for identity of humanity.

Dilip Chitre is also the same poet who talked about the culture, mythological stories and Mystical Elements through his works.

Dilip Chitre was born to Purushottam Chitre, in the year 1938 in Gujarat. His father was the publisher of a critically-acclaimed periodical called 'Abhiruchi'. He studied at English Medium School, but after three years he shifted to a Marathi-Medium School. While in school, Junior College Chitre became fluent in Gujarati, Hindi and English and obviously in Marathi which was his mother tongue. He then learned Bengali and Urdu as well. At the age of sixteen started to write poetry. He started to Writing for Marathi magazine. He was the most influences in 'Little Magazine Movements'. He started 'Shabda' Marathi magazine with Arun Kolatkar and Ramesh Samartha in 1959. During the emergency era of 1975 to 1977, he accepted an invitation from the University of Iowa to join their International Writing Program as a Fellow. He stayed in the US even after his fellowship tenure ended and returned only at the end of 1977. In the year 1985, Dilip Chitre was the convener of the Valmiki World Poetry Festival held at New Delhi.

Dilip Chitre wrote 'Travelling in the Cage' and 'Ekun Kavita' collection of poems. He wrote prolifically, in both Marathi and English, publishing in magazines and anthologies since 1951. He worked with the famous topics like Almighty, saint, worshipers, myth, and mythological stories.

This research proposal explores Mystical Elements and Mythological Stories in the poetries of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre, as well as its similarities and dissimilarities too. The research work will be through a study of the criticism of the work by Kolatkar and Chitre. It is proposed to be a multidisciplinary as the study heavily draws insights from psychology, mythology and sociology.

Mysticism is a universal theme. According to Philosophers the development of a myth and its mystery, tradition etc. depends upon the atmosphere and more on the relationship with their religion. As the time changes, the concepts and methods take different forms. One has to accept the new, inspiring ideas in the field of psychology, mythology and sociology.

The poets, ‘Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre’ mainly deal human relationship with the God and their religion. In this study, it is proposed to explore the mysticism in poetry by the poets, with the help of new and advanced theories, methods and ideas in the field of psychology, mythology and sociology. The study will search different layers of complexities, hardness and softness of the mystical elements from psychological, mythological and sociological point of view. In today’s advanced, techno-savvy and modern world, the study will be helpful for the readers, Thinkers, parents and children too. It will make a valuable and substantial contribution to the fields of Psychology, Mythology, Sociology and Indian poetry in English.

So, the present study highlights the investigation the work of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre. The study will be beneficial for readers and scholars at the time of investigation of the works of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Indian English Literature is an important part of English Literature, which cannot be ignored. It has attracted widespread interest in both India and abroad over the past few decades. Notably, Indian Writing in English has given a new dimension to the Indian Poets, Critics and authors, through their writings in English. Indian Critics, Poets, writers are dealing with the latest burning issues related to myth and mystery. As well as those issues have existed in the society since long. Indian and also other Poets, Critics and writers have been exploring mythological subjectivity and deal with themes that Range from ancient times to modern century.

The Poets like Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, Kamala Das, Nissim Ezekiel, Keki N Daruwala, P L Deshpande, Arun Kolatkar, Dilip Chitre and many more Indian Writers have talked about these and other issues of mythology and culture.

In the research paper titled, 'Self-Conscious Pleasure-Seeking: Equality in Arun Kolatkar’s Poetry’ by Amisha Modi has discussed the speaker in Kolatkar’s poem is self-consciously voyeuristic. Taking the example of the “Barefoot Queen of the Crossroads,” a poem from his collection Kala Ghoda Poems, Amisha Modi has analyzed Kolatkar’s understanding of

the nature of sexuality, of sexual relationships and of sexual Exploitation. These three areas explore the best way to Mystical Elements.

In the research paper titled, 'The Challenge Called Dilip Chitre' by Sachin C Ketkar has mentioned about his life with Dilip Chitre. Sachin C Ketkar talked about Dilip Chitre's poetry and mentioned that his poetry in English and Marathi since its very beginning, reflect an obsessive preoccupation with images of death and self-mutilation, making it dark and disturbing trend.

William James, in his book Varieties of Religious Experiences argues that, "One may say truly, I think, that personal religious experiences have its roots and center in Mystical States of consciousness".

James Bissett Pratt, president of the American Theologian Society, argues in in his book The Religious Consciousness; a psychological study, that, "The center of the Mysticism is religion and while it would indeed be untrue to assert that only the mystics are genuinely religious, it is safe to say that intensely religious people have at least a touch of Mysticism".

Bhardwaj, Vipasha, in the research thesis entitled, 'Bombay Group of Poets' explained the mysterious elements. The dissertation discusses with the theme of tradition and culture. It explains The Bombay Poets as a group tend to be marginal to traditional Hindu society not only by being alienated by their English language education, but also more significantly by coming from such communities as the Parsis, Jews and Christians, or by being rebels from Hinduism and Islam or by living abroad. As well as it depicted the all those things which are related to Indian culture and tradition.

Spacy, Andrew, in the research article titled, "Analysis of Poem 'The Felling of the Banyan Tree' by Dilip Chitre" explained the biographical elements. It explains view of poetry by Chitre and stated that his poetry as essentially autobiographical and historical. It describes his engagement with persons and places, the progression of time, death, and loss, memory and perhaps a hope of liberation to which he clings.

Abhirami, Girija Sriram, in the research article, "Master of Arts: Dilip Chitre (1938–

2009)" explained that, Chitre was of the firm conviction that the real crisis in contemporary Indian culture was that few people were prepared to recognize and celebrate the heterogeneity of its cultural heritage; he deplored the state of affairs where any act of self-expression that did not toe the establishment's line could metamorphose into an act aimed at 'hurting sentiments'. Indeed, when he condemned the vandalism in the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune by a right-wing group protesting against James Laine's book on Shivaji in 2004, he himself ended up requiring police protection for many months, much against his wishes.

Desai, Pankti B, in the research thesis entitled 'A study of modernist Indian English poets Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre' illustrated with the major issues of poetry. The dissertation argues that Chitre and Kolatkar belong to what can be understood as Indian modernism which is a distinctive type of modernism. She also mentioned that, their Works belong to the international modernist movements, and shares some of its basic features Like the metropolitan background, impact of Euro-American avant-gardes, little magazine Movements, the themes of alienation, sexual agony, myths, existential angst, rebellion against the middle-class values, cultural decadence and the desire to invent a tradition and so on.

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

In India, Mythological Stories have a lot of issues. The various schools of Teachers, students, professors and philosophers day in and day out constantly work to comprehend the mystical elements of Kolatkar's and Chitre's poetry. Even today, scientists, critics, writers are suffering some issues with the same field.

And this research with the help of the selected works of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre's focuses on these issues and problems.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

The proposed study has following objectives:

1) To understand and explores the Mystical Elements in the 'Arun Kolatkar's and Dilip Chitre's poetry with the help of insights from Psychology, Mythology and Sociology.
2) To explores the psychological, mythological, religious, sociological and domestic complexities of human God relationship.
3) To understand the author's mind-set and perceptions related to this topic of research.
4) To contribute to knowledge in the field of Psychology, Mythology and Sociology and Indian Writing in English with special focus on the Mysticism.
5) To makes this a guide to readers, students, teachers to make them aware of various delicacies and aspects of this phenomenon.

HYPOTHESIS

As it is well known, Hypothesis is a statement made on observations and experiments. Scientific hypotheses are previous observations that cannot be satisfactorily explained with the available scientific theories. Hypothesis also refers to provisional idea whose merit requires evaluation. A researcher may not know the outcome of a test as the study is under investigation till its completion remains reasonably under investigation.

The proposed study will be carried out along the following hypotheses: -

1) Human being and God relationship is complex and delicate, irrespective of religion, caste, creed, culture and country.
2) The concept of mysticism of mythology affects God-Worshiper's relationship.
3) The mythological concepts developed Mystical Elements of worshipers on the social conditions prevailing in his\her family.
4) The religious attitude of 'favoritism' effects on the mystical elements of the works.
5) The Mystical Elements in Arun Kolatkar's and Dilip Chitre's work.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

A) The Scope of the poets during the age: -

The period of the late 20th century is 1950-2000. The study of this age is very extensively type of study. In this age, there are various major poets like Nissim Ezekiel, Keki Daruwala, Kamala Das, Mahashweta Devi, P L Deshpande, Namdev Dhasal etc. The researcher has chosen Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre and their selected works for the analysis and interpretation.

B) Period of the Study: -

Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre as well as their selected works written during the late 20th period will be considered for the present study. From this point of view, Kolatkar and Chitre and their works are chosen for further study. The period of the study will be 1950-2000.

C) Limitations: -

1) The period of the study will be only 1950-2000.

2) The study will focus on Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre.

3) The study will focus only on selected works of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research will be carried out by using Library method. As this is research in literature, the primary sources require are the poems of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre. This research will also take into consideration the secondary sources like critical writing on these two poets, published research papers and the material available on electronic media. Similarly, as this research focuses on mythological, sociological, historical and psychological aspects, the texts concerning mythology, mysticism and psychology will also be taken into consideration. This research primarily intends to explore the concept of mysticism and find out the elements of the mysticism in the poem of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The significance of the Study is made clear with the following remarks. There are various ages in English Literature. But in this thesis, the study will focus on late 20th century and the poets Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre's selected Works. There are a few works introduced in the present research are as under-

1) The Jejuri (1976)
2) Ekun Kavita (1990)
3) Says Tuka (1991)
4) Kala Ghoda (2004)

The main purpose of writing the present study is to help the post graduate, and under graduate students of English Literature in Indian Universities. Readers can make use of this thesis independently with full advantages. Thesis is intended also serve as a stepping stone to further study to awaken a genuine interest in literature and to enable students to enjoy literature with a greater understanding of its varied genre. Most of us don't aware of ages of English Literature and the poets of these ages. The student's study only English poems but not detail study of the poets. The poet's whole life, their struggle, career is not studied. This thesis can be instruments of enjoyment and inspiration if correctly introduced to young minds. Designed with such thought, this is a simple and comprehensive guide to Indian English Literature. It provides biography of great writer, discusses his influences and his work. Therefore, it encourages students to read widely for themselves, as they fall in love with English Literature. It aims not simply to instruct but also to inspire, to trace the historical development of English Literature.

The present study will give the readers a firm distinct impression of the quality of these great poets Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre, to acquaint readers with the representative works of the poets and to familiarize students with the background of their works. The students will understand their way of looking at life, religion and philosophy of life. This study concentrates on highlighting main Mystical Elements in the selected works of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre. The present study will give the information about the history, culture, mythology and characteristics of the works. The study of the great poets Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre's great selected poetries

are helpful and useful to study English Literature. From this point of view, the subject of this proposal is a very necessary and significant.

TENTATIVE CHAPTERIZATION

The Plan of Research: -

The research study will consist of the following chapters: -

1) Chapter I: -

I) Introduction

II) Mysticism: An Overview

2) Chapter II: -

-A study of Mystical Elements and Marathi culture in the work of Arun Kolatkar.

3) Chapter III: -

-A study of Mystical Elements and Bhakti Movement in the work of Dilip Chitre.

4) Chapter IV: -

Fusion: Similarities and dissimilarities between Kolatkar and Chitre.

5) Chapter V: -

Conclusion

Chapters of research

The purpose of the present study is to discuss and analyses the mystical elements, mythological stories and cultural features in the selected works of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre. By focusing the reader's attention on the significant and silent elements of the thesis, the chapter for discussion and writing are designed in proper understanding expression. This thesis consists of five chapters that are well arranged in a coherent manner.

The present study will be divided into different chapters. The proposed chapter-wise planning is as follows: -

I) Introduction

Represent a general presentation of the subject. This chapter will provide an Introduction and theoretical framework to the topic of research and state the aims and objectives, scope and limitations along with the justification for selection of the works and the research methodology adopted. It focuses on the purpose and significance of the research. It is an Introduction-presenting a study of the background of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre and their works. It is the discussion of the cultural history and characteristics of poet's works and Indian poetry in English literature. It deals with life and major works of the poets. It presents the characteristics of the Indian poetry; mythological stories, culture and mystical elements, how these qualities are suitable to poets. In this way, this chapter shows that both of the poets are the representative poets of the late 20th century. In Introduction, the researcher briefly explains his interest in the literature and what he seeks to achieve in this study. It contains the hypothesis as well as the purpose of the study.

I) Brief survey of the Indian English poetry.

II) Life Sketch of Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre's brief survey of their works.

III) Indian English Literature and Cultural heritage.

2) Arun Kolatkar: Mysticism and Marathi Culture

The second chapter will focus on the theme of Mysticism and will analyses and explain how Marathi culture has been the dominant themes in the works of Arun Kolatkar. It will elaborate the problems of Mythology and Culture. Hence the researcher will be going to portray the mythological, sociological and cultural activities terms of using main characteristics.

3) Dilip Chitre: Mysticism, Bhakti Movement and Dilip Chitre

The researcher will be going to explain about Mystical Elements and view of the entire works of Dilip Chitre. The third chapter will discuss the theme of Mysticism, Bhakti Movement and Hindu Mythology. In this chapter, the focus will be on Mystical Elements in the poems of Dilip Chitre.

4) Fusion: Similarities and Dissimilarities between Kolatkar and Chitre

The fourth chapter will examine Mystical Elements, similarities and differences between the Arun Kolatkar's and Dilip Chitre's poetry. This chapter will compare and contrast the works by Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre by analyzing the theme, structure and the Characteristics from the selected works of these poets.

5) Conclusion

The fifth and last chapter will conclude study of these two poets and their selected works and it will also give the researcher's personal opinion on the concepts discussed in the above chapters.

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